

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Stephen Recken, Director/Editor



June II
1986

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS:

The past few weeks have been very busy at CCHS. New programs are being initiated and planned, while annual special events proved to be successful for our organization. A recap of the major news items includes:

**The Jane Barnes Celebration earned over \$3,500 for CCHS thanks to the tireless efforts of our chairperson, Johna Marshall, and her dedicated organizing committee. Among her crew were Karen Beauchamp, Bruce Berney, Mary Dowell, Darlene Felkins, Michael Foster, Buddy Hoell, Rae Goforth, and Don Marshall. Another dedicated CCHS member, Terry Salo, was instrumental in fund-raising efforts. Many people enjoyed the various activities, including the Back-Street Parade, Carnival, Fantasy Night Raffle, Tavern Tour, and Crowning Ceremony.

**CCHS has embarked on a second oral history project to follow "Remembering Uniontown." This endeavor will focus on the history of logging in Clatsop County, and the experience of life in logging camps. The project is directed by Stephen Recken, with the help of our friend and logging expert Sam Churchill. The photography, sound, and final production will be the responsibility of Larry Johnson, producer of "Uniontown." Our Museum Technician, David Peterson, will work on photograph research and collection.

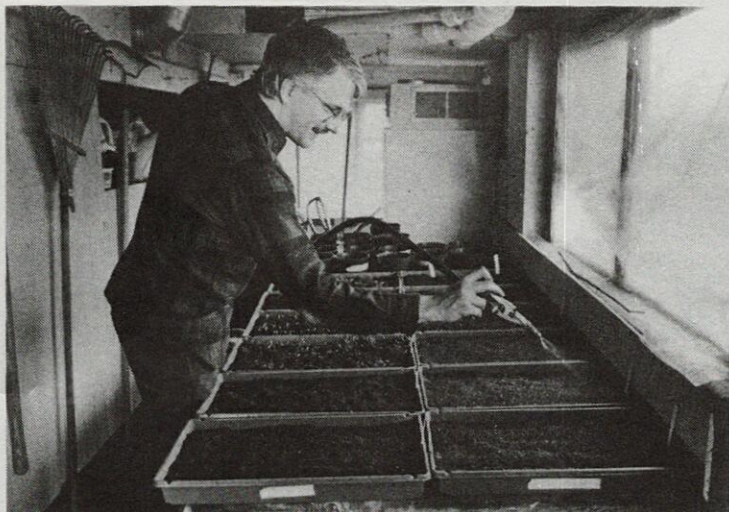
**The Heritage Center Fund Raising Committee has begun efforts to complete the exterior restoration of our new history museum. Led by Board members Bob Lovell and Arnold Seeborg, the committee has sent a letter to residents of our area explaining our plans. Bob and Arnold are assisted by CCHS President Michael Foster, Eleanor Forrester, Al Vernon, Henry Wagner, Barbara Schwab, and Stephen Recken.

Please join this effort by making a pledge toward the Heritage Center campaign.

**CCHS has begun a living history program and thus has taken another important step toward sharing the history of the Clatsop region with residents and visitors. The program, which is funded by the City of Astoria, will feature a person dressed as a member of Astor's Pacific Fur Company. The interpreter will deliver four presentations daily at the site of Fort Astoria in the first permanent American settlement west of the Rockies. Our President, Michael Foster, has led the effort to initiate this program.

**CCHS and Astoria have an additional way to share our rich collection of Victorian homes. Vera GAult, author of two popular booklets on local history, has agreed to open her home on Friday and Sunday afternoons for visitors who wish to see a Victorian in addition to the Flavel House. The Judge Page House, built in 1879, will be available for a \$3 admission fee to CCHS.

**Our Cumtux editor, Evelyn Hankel, reminds members that submissions to the historical quarterly will be much appreciated.



Keven Miller, our energetic gardener, has been working very hard to ensure the beauty of the Flavel House grounds. He reports that the roses are fragrant and blooming. In fact, the grounds are so attractive that a number of couples have scheduled weddings, thus making CCHS a leader in romance as well.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER'S DESK (A chat with the late May Miller)

I found a tag pinned on a quilt the other day as I was rearranging the bed upstairs. It was a note from May instructing us about some detail that she didn't want lost in transition. I found myself talking to her as I worked and observed; "I don't know if you approve of all of these changes May but this is the way it is: the Jenny Lind bed has been moved into the green bedroom and the children's room is a real toy museum. I always felt a little sense of guilt towards you as you were so nice to me when I was young, bringing little embroidered bibs for the babies and cookies when I wasn't feeling well. Our paths diverged as time went on and met again when I became interested in the Flavel Mansion Museum. I always felt as though I was paying some long forgotten debt and when you would make your annual trip to visit us in late years and you pronounced that everything was just fine, Stephen and I would beam. We felt we had passed inspection for another year. Downstairs we have the kitchen almost finished (everything seems to always be "almost"). It is nice to finally be able to tell all the people who inquire that it is just around the corner and to the right.

On Memorial Day weekend we had more visitors than we have ever had at the House. The volunteers are in place and have been on their extra hours for a month now. Many of your friends like Ruth Maki, Selma Mathews, Dorothy MacGregor, and Margaret Green are still interested and help us in little ways...however, there is a whole new generation working daily. We never promised you a rose garden but we have a beautiful one and it is blooming beautifully in spite of rain, wind and aphids. The garden is hosting several weddings this summer and we are all excited about that. I don't imagine that even you anticipated that event. Well the quilt is finished and I must move on to another room. It is always nice to have someone to converse with while I am working. Goodbye for now May I'll be talking to you.

Jean Anderson

THE HERITAGE CENTER

An exhibit of quilts and coverlets from the Historical Society's permanent collection now graces Gallery II at the Heritage Center. The complete array of seven large textiles will be in Gallery IV at the end of June when remodeling is finished and track lighting installed.

The exhibit includes three bold coverlets from the mid-nineteenth century. Professional male weavers produced at least two of them. The four quilts represent several styles dating from the 1860's to the 1930's. The exhibit's centerpiece--a log-cabin quilt-- required a large horizontal platform for support because it is too fragile to hang. That delicate bed covering contains nearly ten thousand silk rectangles still brilliantly colored more than a century after women carefully pieced them together.

Liisa Penner has volunteered many hours of careful stitching to ensure that these delicate keepsakes are safely exhibited. Helmi Mellin and Bessie Peterson--a son could not ask for a more generous mother-- also donated their time and skills.

Other exhibits are also planned for the Heritage Center. In July a selection of historic photographs and quotations describing Astoria at different periods will appear in Gallery II. They will be mounted on a large display unit generously donated by the Columbia River Maritime Museum. Late summer and fall will bring two temporary exhibits from Visual Arts Resources in Eugene: an Afro--American quilt show and contemporary art depicting the Oregon coast. Please visit the Heritage Center to view the progress.

David Peterson

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